



# City Administrator's Report

December 2008

Dear Reader,

*Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.*

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## Key Meetings

### *City Council Meetings*

December 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. City Hall Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street. 2 p.m.

## Community Events

### *Fundraising Event for Lance and Carla Hoffman, Tea Fire Burn Victims*

Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. screening of Star Trek II at the Arlington Theatre. \$15 for movie tickets, \$25 for movie and reception. All proceeds go to Santa Barbara Bank & Trust's Hoffman Fund.

### *Application Deadline for 2009 Harriet Miller Youth Leadership Awards Scholarship*

Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Scholarship given to an outstanding youth in Santa Barbara in recognition of their leadership and community service. For more information on qualifications, contact Mary Lynn Harms with the Downtown Organization at 962-2098, extension 24, or Chris McDermut with Teen Programs Staff at 560-7558.

### *Bohnett Park Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony and Community Celebration*

Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. on San Andres and West Victoria Streets.

### *Holiday Light Exchange*

Now through December 19<sup>th</sup>. Exchange your working incandescent lights and receive a strand of LED holiday lights. Limit one strand per household on a first-come, first-serve basis. Must be a Southern California Edison customer. For exchange locations and more information, visit [www.SCEEP.org](http://www.SCEEP.org).

### *Christmas Holiday*

Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>. City offices closed.

### *New Year's Day 2009*

Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. City offices closed.

## Flags on State Street

*Holiday*

December 8<sup>th</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup>

*GaySantaBarbara.org*

January 4<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>

## City's Financial Condition

***City Faces \$5.5 Million Budget Shortfall.*** Due to the weakening economy, the City is currently addressing a projected General Fund budget shortfall of approximately \$5.5 million for the current fiscal year. This constitutes nearly 5% of total expenditures in the General Fund. Most General Fund revenues have been impacted by the current economic conditions, including sales tax, property tax, and transient occupancy tax ("bed" tax). The City will balance the budget with \$3 million in expenditure reductions and \$2.5 million in one-time measures.

The outlook for Fiscal Year 2010, which starts in July 2009, is even worse. Weak revenues combined with increased costs could result in a General Fund deficit of \$9 million, approximately 8% of the City's total General Fund. While we are still finalizing our estimates, it is clear that difficult decisions will need to be made by all departments. Since about 75% of our General Fund expenses cover personnel and benefit costs, it is anticipated that we will need to eliminate several staff positions. It is our intention to do everything possible to avoid employee layoffs, but in some cases there may be no alternative. On December 16th, Council will receive a report on the City's financial condition and status of the General Fund during the regularly scheduled Council meeting at 2 p.m.

## Tea Fire Response

***Residents Urged to Prepare for Floods.*** Immediately after a fire, soil can be very unstable and can be easily disturbed by rain. The City urges residents who live in Sycamore Canyon and the areas affected by the Tea Fire to be prepared for possible mudslides or floods. Sandbags are available at the City's Corporate Annex Yard on 401 East Yanonali Street. The station is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. until further notice (except on holidays). If rain becomes an imminent threat, the City and County will use the Reverse 911 system to alert residents of a possible evacuation order. Fortunately, the recent rains were light and no mudslides or flooding occurred in the burned area or downstream.

***Tea Fire Area Residents Rebuilding Resources.*** The City continues to assist residents affected by the Tea Fire. Property owners are encouraged to visit the permit counter at 630 Garden Street. General questions on the rebuilding process and erosion control can be answered. Demolition permits to clear property of building materials and other fire related debris can also be obtained. For more information, call 564-5485, visit the permit counter, or visit the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

## City Administrator's Office

**City TV Documentary Dedicated to Tea Fire Survivors.** *Peril and Perseverance: A History of Disasters in Santa Barbara* is a documentary aimed to inspire emergency preparedness. Santa Barbara was reminded of its potential for disasters when the wind-driven Tea Fire destroyed over 230 homes. In this hour-long documentary, viewers discover Santa Barbara's incredible history of fires, floods, earthquakes, landslides, toxic spills, and even tsunamis. *Peril and Perseverance* includes detailed accounts from experts and people that have experienced these disasters first hand. This documentary serves as a prologue for City TV's four-part emergency preparedness series, *Get Ready Santa Barbara*. *Peril and Perseverance* will air on Sundays in December at 8 p.m. on City TV Channel 18. For rebroadcast times, to request a DVD of the documentary, or to watch it online, visit: [www.citytv18.com](http://www.citytv18.com)

**Inside Santa Barbara.** *Inside Santa Barbara* is City TV Channel 18's award-winning news magazine show. In this month's episode, viewers learn about the Tea Fire, flood preparations at the Santa Barbara Airport, National Weather Service Flood Warnings, safe driving tips in the rain, recent projects completed by the Public Works Department, fundraising efforts for a Children's Library, and recruitments for City Advisory Groups. *Inside Santa Barbara* airs Mondays at 8 p.m., Tuesdays at 5 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 9 p.m., and Sundays at 10 p.m. You can also watch *Inside Santa Barbara* on-line by visiting the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

## Administrative Services Department

**Conflict of Interest Code Update.** The Political Reform Act requires most state and local government officials and employees to publicly disclose their personal assets and income and to disqualify themselves from participating in decisions which may affect their personal financial interests. The City Clerk's Office is currently in the process of updating the City's Conflict of Interest Code. State law requires that the City update the Code on a biennial basis in even years. The Code requires filers to file a Statement of Economic Interests with the City Clerk's Office annually, no later than April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Code filers are also required to file an assuming office and initial statement within 30 days of assuming office and a leaving office statement within 30 days after leaving the office or position.

It is anticipated that the Code update will go before the City Council for approval on December 16, 2008. Additional information related to the Conflict of Interest Code can be found by visiting the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

## Airport Department

**Passenger Count Dips in October.** More than 65,000 passengers arrived and departed at the Airport in October, a 5.8% decrease over the same month last year. The decrease in passengers was primarily due to the loss of Express Jet service to Sacramento and San Diego. The highest capacity flights were aboard United Airlines to Denver (91.1%) and American Eagle to Dallas/Ft. Worth (90.6%). Overall the passenger count is up 2.6% for the first 10 months of 2008 over 2007.

**Long Term Parking Lot Slurry Seal.** The Long Term Lot at the Terminal will be closed for construction November 28<sup>th</sup> through December 12<sup>th</sup> depending on the weather. The lot is scheduled to be slurry sealed and re-stripped, which means long-term parkers will need to park at Long Term Parking Lot 2 off Hollister Avenue near Fairview Avenue. Lot 2 is now automated and accepts credit cards and cash at the exit pay station. It is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week with a complimentary shuttle van service operating every 10 minutes between the lot and the Airline Terminal.

## Community Development Department

**Moving into Building "Hope."** The Mental Health Association (MHA) of Santa Barbara County is rapidly nearing completion of Building "Hope," a large, mixed-use project on 617 Garden Street. The project provides 50 units of affordable rental housing for a combination of low income MHA clients and downtown workers. The project also has administrative office space and clinical program space for MHA, in addition to office space that will be used by the City. The City's Redevelopment Agency provided \$6.3 million in loans for construction and \$385,000 in loans for predevelopment. MHA moved into its new office space on December 1<sup>st</sup> and tenants are expected to move in on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Low-income downtown workers have already been selected to live in 12 one-bedroom units. City employees who work downtown and meet the definition for low income (\$43,600 for singles, \$49,800 for couples) should contact the City's Housing Authority at 965-1071 or [www.hacsb.org](http://www.hacsb.org) and request placement on the waiting list for Building Hope and other downtown worker housing projects.

**Planning Commission Update.** The Planning Commission will meet on December 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Items include:

December 11<sup>th</sup>: 1) 3885-3887 State Street or "The Enclave," formerly known as "The Berkus Lofts": Mixed-use development with 26 market rate and four affordable residential units. Three modifications and a subdivision are requested. 2) Concept review of 4151 Foothill Road (Foothill Triangle): 70,000 square-foot building, proposed for occupancy by educational facilities and offices; Annexation and Development Plan approval would be required.

December 18<sup>th</sup>: 1) 1701-1704 State Street: Expansion of the Santa Barbara Artificial Kidney Center, a 5,700 square foot addition to an existing two-story building; Modifications and Development Plan approval are requested. 2) 1900 Lasuen Drive (El Encanto Hotel): Environmental hearing on the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration. 3) 35 State Street (La Entrada): Substantial Conformance Hearing for project amendments.

## Finance Department

**October Transient Occupancy Tax Down 2.5%.** This is the second consecutive monthly year-over-year Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) decline this fiscal year. After four months of the City's fiscal year, year-to-date TOT growth stands at 2.6%, which is the annual growth rate

needed to achieve the TOT revenue budget. Given turmoil in the financial markets and grim financial news, the City is continuing to closely monitor revenues. The next significant milestone will be the third week of December when we will receive our sales tax data for the quarter-ended September 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Library Department

**Book Distribution.** The Library System completed the first of three Reading is Fundamental book distributions at local schools in October. Approximately 1,000 students at eight schools chose a book to keep from a wide range of subjects and reading levels. The next round of book distributions takes place in December.

**Computer Reservations at Central Library.** The Main Library added six internet computers for the public and began a PC reservation system in October. These measures have virtually eliminated the waiting lines for internet access. Patrons can now have up to one hour of uninterrupted computer use, and can reserve a computer for a specific time up to one day in advance. There are now 18 computers for public use which require a library card number, an internet-only card number or day pass number.

**Día de los Muertos at Central Library.** In conjunction with the Junior League of Santa Barbara and the Youth Services Division the City held a special four-hour Halloween/Día de los Muertos celebration at the Central Library. The event drew 77 children and 55 adults despite the rain. There were two story times, guest folklorico dancers, arts and crafts, piñatas, and kettle popcorn.

**Genealogy Class with SBGS.** The Library System partnered with the Santa Barbara County Genealogy Society to introduce the library's subscription databases, Ancestry Library Edition and Heritage Quest, to students taking Genealogy classes through the Santa Barbara City College Adult Education Center. The class was taught at the library and utilized a portable laptop training lab that was awarded to the Library System by the State of California last year.

## Parks and Recreation

**Celebration of Bohnett Park Expansion.** The expansion of Bohnett Park at San Andres and West Victoria Streets is complete and remains fenced to allow landscaping to settle in. The pocket park is designed to provide a passive, green space for Westside residents and workers. There are a number of unique features, including California native plants, the framed outline of a Craftsman cottage, oversized Adirondack chairs, a bright blue rubber creek, and a serene view of the Old Mission Creek restoration. A ribbon-cutting ceremony and community celebration is planned for Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, to welcome the new addition to the Santa Barbara Parks system.

**Nominations for Youth Leadership Award.** The Downtown Organization and the City's Teen Programs are currently accepting applications for the 2009 Harriet Miller Youth Leadership Awards Scholarship. This is given to an outstanding youth in Santa Barbara in recognition of their leadership and community service. The Downtown Organization presents the award in honor of former Mayor Harriet Miller's contributions to local youth. Applicants must be a high

school senior in the Santa Barbara School District or a resident of Santa Barbara with a minimum grade point average of 2.5. Applicants must have completed 45 community service hours by the application deadline of December 17<sup>th</sup>. Scholarship applications must be returned to the Teen Programs office in person or by mail. The office is located in the Carrillo Recreation Center at 100 East Carrillo Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. The award and scholarship check will be presented at a luncheon scheduled for January 22, 2009. For more information, contact Mary Lynn Harms with the Downtown Organization at 962-2098, extension 24, or Chris McDermut with Teen Programs Staff at 560-7558.

***City's Teen Programs and Twelve35 Teen Center Win Awards.*** The City of Santa Barbara was declared to have the Best Overall Teen Program by the Southern California Teen Coalition (SCTC) at the Second Annual Teenie Awards held on November 14<sup>th</sup> in Baldwin Park, CA. The City was awarded a Super Star award as an "agency that is paving a positive path for teens through a comprehensive approach and dedication to the teens in their community." The City of Santa Barbara was touted for their commitment to making youth a priority by dedicating space, community resources, and providing teens with an opportunity to be heard in an organized and methodical manner. In addition to winning Best Overall Teen Programming, the Twelve35 Teen Center was also presented an award for Best Teen Center Facility.

## **Police Department**

***PAL Soccer Program Needs Cleats and Shin Guards.*** The Santa Barbara Police Activities League (PAL) has begun its after-school soccer program at four Santa Barbara School District Junior High campuses. These schools include Santa Barbara, La Cumbre, La Colina, and Goleta Valley Junior High Schools. Each school is represented by at least two teams comprised of both boys and girls. Some players do not have the financial means to provide their own cleats and shin guards, so if community members have cleats or shin guards that are no longer of use, they should contact PAL at 962-5560.

***Night Life Enforcement Team Puts Grant Funds to Use.*** The Santa Barbara Police Department Night Life Enforcement Team (NET) was awarded a \$100,000 grant by Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) to increase inspections of establishments within the City that have a liquor license and conduct underage drinking enforcement and education.

In October and November, the City inspected 26 establishments selling alcohol and found that 14 were in violation of minor administrative codes. Those 14 establishments were required to correct the violations. The City also conducted two "Minor Decoy" operations and two "Shoulder Tap" operations. Police officers also taught six "Youth Offender" classes on various topics that included the consequences of under age drinking and use of false identification. A "Responsible Beverage Server" class was provided for those who own or work at establishments with liquor licenses.

## **Waterfront Department**

***Wind Wing, an Innovative Approach to Create Renewable Energy.*** Developed in Santa Barbara by W2 Energy Corporation, the prototype device called *Wind Wing* harnesses wind energy to generate electricity, pump water, or compress air at lower wind speeds than

necessary to turn conventional wind turbines. The metal framed device is about 25 feet long with mounted wings to capture the wind energy. A demonstration is planned in Santa Barbara on Stearns Wharf. Exact demonstration times are to be determined. Valuable information will be gathered from these demonstrations on the efficiency, structural integrity, energy generating potential, and safety of the device.

***Christmas Tree Lights Up Stearns Wharf.*** Stearns Wharf Business Association has sponsored a 25-foot Christmas tree located on the shoreward finger of the Wharf adjacent to Ty Warner Sea Center. The tree will be lit throughout the holiday season from the day after Thanksgiving until New Year's Day. A tree lighting took place at the Annual Parade of Lights on December 7<sup>th</sup>.